

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /115 W

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R 100203Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6715

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOA AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6796

PASS: AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND NOVTONY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SALE TO USSR

1. AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD ANNOUNCED LATE OCTOBER 9 IT HAS NEGOTIATED A FURTHER SALE OF 5000,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT TO USSR. THE SALE IS ON AN F.O.B. CASH BASIS, AND SCHEDULED FOR SHIPMENT DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY/JUNE 1976. THE CONTRACT COVERS ALL CLASSES OF WHEAT, AND IS BELIEVED A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION WILL BE MET BY HARD AND PRIME HARD WHEATS. THE BOARD VALUED THE SALE AT ABOUT \$A70 MILLION, GIVING AN AVERAGE PRICE OF ABOUT \$A140 (US DOLLARS 176.50) PER METRIC TON, OR SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THE CURRENT AWB QUOTATION FOR HARD WHEAT FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 1976 SHIPMENT.

2. THE NEW SALE BRINGS THE TOTAL VOLUME OF WHEAT SOLD TO THE USSR FOR SHIPMENT FROM SEPTEMBER 1975 TO 1.5 MILLION
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METRIC TONS, AND ACCORDING TO BOARD SPOKESMEN NO FURTHER

SALES ARE CONTEMPLATED UNTIL HARVEST PROSPECTS ARE MORE CERTAIN. THE BOARD HAS ALREADY COMMITTED MORE THAN 3.5 MILLION TONS OF THE 1975/76 CROP AND ON THE BASIS OF PROSPECTIVE EXPORT AVAILABILITY OF ABOUT 8 MILLION TONS MOST OF THE REMAINDER WILL BE REQUIRED FOR TRADITIONAL MARKETS. HOWEVER, IF THE 1975/76 CROP TURNS OUT BETTER THAN THE PREDICTED 10.3 MILLION METRIC TONS (WHICH SEEMS NOW PROBABLE) AGATTACHE OFFICE BELIEVES THAT A FURTHER SALE OF AT LEAST 500,000 TONS MAY BE MADE TO USSR LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY 1976.
PERCIVAL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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